Maimonides School SUMmer MATH

THIRD GRADE NEWSLETTER SUMMER

Although children are taught mathematics in school, research shows that families are an essential part of the learning process. By doing mathematics with your children, you can make a difference. Here are some ideas for you and your child to do this summer. Have fun doing math!

GAMES FOR THIRD GRADE

Salute

After removing the face cards, deal the deck evenly between two players. A third player says, "1, 2, 3 SALUTE!" and the two players pick up a card and place it on their foreheads, facing out, without looking at their own card. Player 3 calls out the sum (or product) of the two cards. The other two players need to determine what digit is on their card by knowing the sum (or product) and the digit the other player is holding.

Double Doom

You can play this game on a hundred chart, or by keeping track on a piece of scrap paper. Each player starts at 0. On your turn, you roll two dice and multiply the numbers together. You move forward that many spaces on the hundreds chart, or add that product to your total. If you roll doubles, you have to go back to zero! You can stop rolling whenever you want; the first person to get to 100 without going over is the winner.

Multiplication Top-It

Remove the face cards, and deal the cards evenly between the players. Each player turns over two cards; the person with the highest *product* takes all of the cards. The person with the most cards at the end of the game is the winner!

Commercial Games

Did you know lots of games you buy include math? Here are some mathematical games that are good for third graders. You may already have them at home. Some suggestions are: Rack-O, Yahtzee, Set, Checkers, Chess, Monopoly, Life.

MATH TOOLKIT

Organize a math toolkit. Keep items in a central place in your home. Here are some ideas for things to include in your child's math toolkit.

Coins to count and sort

Stopwatch or Timer
Customary and Metric rulers
Deck of cards
Calculator
Calendar
Hundred chart (Find one at http://math.about.com/library/100.pdf
Graph paper

WEBSITES

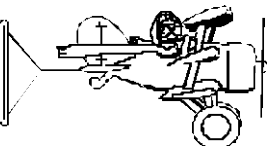
Here are some websites children will like.

http://www.setgame.com - The Set game, online.

http://www.amathsdictionaryforkids.com - An animated and interactive website that is enjoyable and educational is A Maths Dictionary for Kids by Jenny Eather

http://www.harcourtschool.com/thinkmath/ Online games by grade level and topic.

Traveling Thoughts



Find numbers in your travels. Add, subtract, multiply and divide numbers on license plates. Check the odometer at the start and end of your trip. Estimate and then keep track of your mileage and time traveling. How close were you?

Books for Parents and Children

These books offer ideas how parents can help their children develop important mathematical literacy skills and offer a rich collection of mathematical games and activities that relate to daily family life.

Mokros, Jan. 1996. *Beyond Facts and Flashcards: Exploring Math With Your Kids.* Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann.

Stenmark,J., Thompson,V., Casey,R. 1986. *Family Math*. Berkeley: Berkeley Press.

Play the games to maintain fluency. Get ahead start on the school year by practicing math facts!

FASTT Math: Summer is a good time to work on FASTT Math without the pressure of the school year.

Some children learn math facts more easily than others. Given a math fact, a child needs to be able to respond correctly within 3 seconds. Children should be given regular practice, but not so much at any one time that it becomes tedious. Frequent but brief periods of practice is recommended. The following are suggestions for your child:

FASTT Math

We expect students to continue to work on FASTT Math during the summer. We would like all third graders to have completed subtraction and know products to 50 for multiplication. When your child finishes an operation email dgerson@maimonides.org so your child can receive a certificate and be moved to the next operation.

FLASHCARDS

Label one envelope *Facts I Know*, label another *Facts I Need to Learn*. Focus on learning two new facts a day. Remove the flashcards from the *Facts I Know* envelope and put the two new facts into the pile of facts that your child already knows. Have your child practice those cards.

PLAIN AND FANCY COUNTING

Practice counting forward and backward, by 2's, 3's, 5's, 10's and other groups. Practice "counting on" from numbers other than zero or one.

USE WHAT YOU ALREADY KNOW

If your child knows that 4+4 =8, how does this help you know what 4+5 is, or 3+4 is or 8-4 is? Children know how to use doubles to find the answer to doubles plus one, or minus one. Children use family of facts to help them see how addition is related to subtraction and how multiplication is related to division. Example: 2+3=5, 3+2=5, 5-2=3 and 5-3=2

CALCULATORS

Play *Beat the Calculator* game to solve addition, subtraction, multiplication or division problems. One person has a calculator, the other needs to solve the problem in his/her head. Children are surprised that they can beat the calculator on simple facts.

Skip Counting: A calculator with a constant feature allows the (=) key to act as either an "equals" key or as a "repeat" key. The repeat function works whenever an operation has been entered into the calculator. This is especially useful for skip counting by 1 or other numbers forward or backward. See if you can skip count by 4's or any other number faster than the calculator can.

WEBSITES

http://www.thegreatmartinicompany.com offers leveled electronic flashcards.
http://www.multiplication.com/flashgames/CarWash.htm offers multiplication practice.
http://www.multiplication.com/interactive_games.htm offers lots of games for practice.

CELEBRATE

Set reasonable goals and celebrate when your child achieves them!